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**"Tomorrow's Services Today"**

- Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
- STE Rural Development, Inc.
- Steelville Long Distance, Inc.
- MISNet

June 27, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 15, 2017, Vantage Point Solutions filed notice of an ex parte meeting held the previous day regarding a highly efficient approach of deploying broadband using model-based funding.<sup>1</sup> The ex parte participants urged the FCC to make offers of model funding to RLECs whose model eligibility was affected by clerical oversights ("Affected Companies").

Steelville Telephone Exchange ("STE") is an RLEC serving rural Missouri and is one of the Affected Companies. Although STE was not one of the companies participating in the June 14 ex parte, we have since reviewed the funding approach described by Grand River Mutual, Vantage Point Solutions, and JSI. I am filing this letter supporting the new model funding concept.

STE would have robust deployment obligations under the A-CAM path. STE would embrace the opportunity to meet its deployment obligations (3,730 prescribed broadband locations). This approach would further the Commissions' desire to close the digital divide by deploying broadband in an efficient manner.

Steelville Telephone appreciates the FCC's continued efforts to deploy broadband to rural America through federal universal service support programs. We are hopeful new model offers can be made as the FCC is addressing funding needs on the model and modified rate-of-return paths.

Sincerely,



Donald R Santhuff  
General Manager  
Steelville Telephone Exchange

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<sup>1</sup> Filing accessed at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/106152846411492/Ex%20Parte%20on%20Affected%20Company%20Offer%206-14-17.pdf>.